

5-4-1967

Field Notes - May 4, 1967

Maine Division of Information and Education

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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Recommended Citation

Maine Division of Information and Education and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, "Field Notes - May 4, 1967" (1967). *Inland Fisheries and Wildlife News*. 148.
https://digitalmaine.com/ifw_news/148

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F I E L D N O T E S

MAY 4, 1967

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR ARTHUR ROGERS, DIV. B, WATERTVILLE APRIL 15:

WARDEN DONIS WHEATON, WEST MINOT: FISHING PRESSURE AND SUCCESS ARE BUILDING UP DAILY AT LAKE AUBURN WITH ABOUT ONE OR TWO TOGUE BEING TAKEN EACH DAY. THESE FISH ARE WEIGHING FROM THREE TO SIX POUNDS EACH.

WARDEN GEORGE EDWARDS, MT. VERNON: THE SMELT RUN HAS STARTED AT WEST MT. VERNON, BUT THE RUN IS OFF TO A SLOW START. VERY FEW SMELTS COMING UP INTO THE STREAM AND PEOPLE NOT DIPPING MANY FROM THE BOATS.

WARDEN GEORGE NASH, JEFFERSON: DOG COMPLAINTS HAVE LET UP A LITTLE. VERY FEW DEER SIGNS.

WARDEN ORAL PAGE, BELGRADE: FISHING ACTIVITY STILL AT A MINIMUM. ICE IN THE LAKES AND PONDS STILL NOT STARTED AWAY FROM SHORES MUCH.

WARDEN OLIN JACKSON, SOUTH CHINA: NO NEW DOG COMPLAINTS THIS WEEK; HAVE BEEN CHECKING OLD COMPLAINTS TRYING TO FIND THE DOGS. IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF THE ICE WILL BE OUT OF THE LAKES UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY NOW. REPORTS OF DEER MOVING ALL OVER THE DISTRICT. A DOE DEER HIT BY CAR ON RT. #3 TWO WEEK AGO HAD A PAIR OF LAMBS UNBORN. HAVE SEEN FOUR PAIR OF DUCKS AROUND ON THE BROOKS AND STREAMS.

WARDEN WALTER HARRIS, AUGUSTA: CONTINUED SLOW FISHING WITH NO FISH BEEN TO DATE AND FEW FISHERMEN OUT. REPORTS OF A FEW DEER BEING SEEN IN THE WINTHROP AND MONMOUTH AREAS.

WARDEN WINFIELD GORDON, WARREN: THIS IS A QUIET PART OF THE YEAR. WATER IS VERY HIGH ON THE BROOKS, RIVERS, AND LAKES. DOGS ARE STILL DRIVING DEER WITH THE HIGH WATER IN THE SWAMPS AND STREAMS, DEER SEEM TO GET AWAY ALL RIGHT. FISHERMEN HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LUCK YET.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR WALTER BISSET, DIV. C, ELLSWORTH, APRIL 20:

NO ICE OUT IN THE DIVISION YET. SMELTS NOT RUNNING YET. DOGS CHASING DEER ARE STILL A PROBLEM. DEER ARE COMING INTO FIELDS, AND DEER-CAR COLLISIONS ARE PICKING UP.

WARDEN EDWIN WUORI, AMHERST: I WONDER IF ANYONE HAS NOTICED THE DECLINE IN RABBIT POPULATION. BACK ABOUT MID-WINTER I NOTICED A MARKED DECREASE IN RABBIT TRACKS, WHICH WAS VERY NOTICEABLE AS WE HAD A FAIRLY GOOD NUMBER IN THE FALL AND EARLY WINTER. CRUISING AROUND THE PAST TWO WEEKS LOOKING FOR DOGS, I HAVE LOOKED ALSO PARTICULARLY FOR RABBIT SIGNS, AND THEY ARE JUST ABOUT NON-EXISTENT. I WONDER IF THE RABBIT DECREASE HIT A WIDESPREAD AREA OR IF THIS IS JUST A LOCAL SITUATION.

MORE

FIELD NOTES/Addl

WARDEN R. LYLE FROST, SULLIVAN: VERY LITTLE OPEN WATER AND CONSEQUENTLY, LITTLE FISHING INTEREST. I CHECKED NO FISH THIS PAST WEEK.

DOG VIOLATIONS INCREASED IN THE LAST WEEK. I DESTROYED TWO DOGS THAT WERE CHASING DEER ON THE 5TH AND PROSECUTED THE OWNER FOR ALLOWING THEM TO ROAM AT LARGE. HE PAID A \$40. FINE IN ADDITION TO LOSING TWO FAMILY PETS.

FROM SUPERVISOR BISSET, APRIL 12:

I SAW MY FIRST WOODCOCK THIS YEAR ON MARCH 30. CANADA GEESE ARE PRESENT IN LARGE NUMBERS AT FRANKFORT, PENOBSCOT, AND FRANKLIN. WARDEN BASIL CLOSSON, WINTERPORT, INFORMED ME THAT HE SAW A FLOCK OF NEARLY 500 SNOW GEESE AT FRANKFORT LAST WEEK. ALL THE LAKES AND PONDS IN THE DIVISION ARE STILL ICE COVERED AND WILL PROBABLY REMAIN SO FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO WEEKS. DOGS ARE STILL GIVING TROUBLE THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION.

WARDEN R. LYLE FROST, SULLIVAN: I HEARD THE FIRST SINGING WOODCOCK THIS SPRING THE EVENING OF MARCH 30. THIS IS ONE TO TWO WEEKS LATER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS. DURING THE MORNING OF MARCH 31, I NEARLY RAN OVER A WOODCOCK WHILE RIDING MY SNOWMOBILE IN FRANKLIN. VERY LITTLE FISHING IN OPEN WATER SO FAR -- ONLY A FEW STREAMS OPEN AND NO OPEN WATER IN PONDS. TWO FISHERMEN TOOK THREE SALMON APRIL 1 IN A STREAM WHERE THEY HAD REMAINED AFTER SPAWNING.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR JOHN SHAW, WILTON, DIV. E, APRIL 20:

WARDEN ALDEN KENNETT, BETHEL: DEER ARE REALLY SHOWING UP WELL. THEY ARE MOVING OUT INTO THE FIELDS TO FEED AT NIGHT, AND AS A RESULT THE DEER-CAR ACCIDENTS HAVE BEGUN AGAIN. IN TRAVELING TO HANDLE THE ACCIDENTS, I HAVE OBSERVED MANY DEER CROSSING THE ROAD IN ALL PARTS OF THE DISTRICT. I SAW THE FIRST OF THE SMELT RUN AT BRYANT POND THIS WEEK; HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT GETTING INTO THE BROOKS BUT SEEMED TO BE SCHOOLING JUST OFF THE MOUTHS OF THE BROOKS.

WARDEN EBEN PERRY, RANGELEY: SMELT RUN AT UPPER DAM AND MILL BROOK IS WELL STARTED NOW. INDIAN ROCK AND OTHER PLACES AROUND RANGELEY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO FLUCTUATE UNTIL WE GET WARM WEATHER.

SNOW SLED OPERATORS CONTINUE TO RISK THEIR LIVES IN GOING ACROSS THE ROTTEN ICE OF MOOSELOOKMEGUNTIC LAKE FROM BEMIS STATION TO UPPER DAM. I AM AMAZED THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD A DROWNING AS A RESULT OF THIS SMELTING ACTIVITY.

FROM SUPERVISOR SHAW, APRIL 12:

WARDEN ALDEN KENNETT, BETHEL: DEER ARE REALLY COMING OUT HERE NOW, AND MOST OF THEM LOOK VERY GOOD. HOWEVER, AS WITH MOST EVERY YEAR, THERE SEEM TO BE SOME THAT STAGGER OUT OF THE YARDS AND DIE OF MALNUTRITION JUST AS THE WEATHER TURNS WARM. I CAME ACROSS TWO OF THESE THIS WEEK.

WARDEN EBEN PERRY, RANGELEY: MONDAY, APRIL 3, I SAW A FLOCK OF ABOUT 100 SNOW GEESE. SMELT COMING VERY SLOW AT UPPER DAM. STILL TOO EARLY FOR MUCH OF A RUN, BUT THE SMELTERS ARE QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC.

WARDEN GRAY MORRISON, KINGFIELD: THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE WELLBEING OF THE SUGARLOAF AREA LIES IN THE HANDS OF THOSE PATRONIZING THE AREA. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE WHO HAS NOT SEEN IT, TO VISUALIZE THE AMOUNT OF ROADSIDE LITTER DEPOSITED BETWEEN KINGFIELD AND SUGARLOAF MT. DURING THE SKI SEASON.

MORE

FIELD NOTES/Add 2

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR DAVID PRIEST, DIV. G, LINCOLN CENTER, APRIL 24:

THERE IS SOME FISHING ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION, BUT THE CATCH SEEMS TO BE JUST ABOUT NIL. WE ARE HAVING THE USUAL AMOUNT OF DOG TROUBLE FOR THIS SEASON OF THE YEAR. QUITE A FEW MUSKRAT TRAPPERS IN SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK COUNTY. LAST YEAR, COLD STREAM POND IN ENFIELD CLEARED OF ICE ON APRIL 21. THIS YEAR, IT WILL BE MUCH LATER: SOMETIME INTO MAY AT LEAST. THERE ARE MANY DUCKS ALONG THE PENOBSCOT RIVER.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR C. F. COOPER, STOCKHOLM, DIV. I, APRIL 23:

SO FAR, THE MONTH OF APRIL HAS BEEN MORE LIKE A NORMAL MARCH. WE STILL HAVE QUITE A LOT OF SNOW LEFT IN THE WOODS, AND WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED MUCH WATER FROM WHAT HAS MELTED. THE LAKES, RIVERS, AND BROOKS ARE STILL VERY LOW. THE ICE HAS NOT COMPLETELY LEFT THE ALLAGASH OR ST. JOHN RIVERS, DUE MOSTLY TO THE LOW WATER. THERE IS NO OPEN WATER FROM SHORE TO ICE ON ANY OF THE LAKES IN THE AREA, BUT A WARM RAIN AND WARMER WEATHER WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW VERY NICE TROUT AND SALMON TAKEN IN THE FISH RIVER IN FORT KENT AND IN SOLDIER POND.

DEER ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW UP ALONG THE HIGHWAYS. ONE PERSON TOLD ME THAT HE OBSERVED 14 BETWEEN LONG LAKE AND STOCKHOLM ONE NIGHT LAST WEEK. I OBSERVED SIX ON THE CLAYTON LAKE ROAD LAST WEEK, AND THEY APPEARED TO BE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. THREE OF THEM WERE LAST YEAR'S FAWNS, IDENTICAL IN SIZE, AND WERE ALL TOGETHER.

WARDENS PHIL DUMOND AND LEONARD PELLETIER, SR., BOTH HAVE STATED THAT THEY OBSERVED MORE BOBCAT SIGNS THIS PAST WINTER THAN THEY HAVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. BOTH HAVE ALSO STATED THAT THEY HAVE A GOOD DEER CROP LEFT. I BELIEVE WE ALL OBSERVED FEWER OTTER SIGNS IN THE DIVISION DURING THE WINTER. I AM SURE THEIR ABSENCE IS NOT DUE TO BEING OVER TRAPPED.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR WALLACE BARRON, DIV. J, BINGHAM, APRIL 20:

WARDEN INSPECTOR CHARLES TOBIE, GREENVILLE: SPRING IS DRAGGING HER HEELS, AND WINTER CONDITIONS STILL PREVAIL IN THE MOOSEHEAD REGION. SNOW AND COLD WEATHER HAVE INTERFERED CONSIDERABLY WITH THE SYRUP MAKERS ALONG THE BOUNDARY AND HAVE EFFECTIVELY DISCOURAGED THE FISHERMEN. LOW WATER LEVELS PERSIST IN THE PENOBSCOT AND KENNEBEC HEADWATERS DESPITE THE DISAPPEARING SNOW COVER. A FEW WOODCOCK HAVE ARRIVED, MAKING THEIR ANNUAL BAD GUESS ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OBTAINING EARTHWORMS IN TWO FEET OF SNOW.

WARDEN SPECIALIST DONALD WALKER, BINGHAM: FISHING IS VERY LOW IN THIS AREA. BROOKS AND STREAMS ARE VERY LOW FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. I CHECKED WYMAN LAKE ON APRIL 14 FOR ICE CONDITIONS AND FOUND 24 INCHES OF ICE.